

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus, characterized by comprising:

holding means for holding encrypted first information;

storage means for storing second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions by associating said second information with said first information; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;
and

sending means for sending said first information held by said holding means and said second information stored by said storage means.

Claim 2. (currently amended) An information processing method, characterized by comprising:

a holding step of holding encrypted first information;

a storage step of storing second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions by associating said second information with said first information; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;
and

sending means for sending said first information held by said holding step and said second information stored by said storage step.

Claim 3. (currently amended) A providing medium that provides a computer-readable program for making an information processing apparatus execute a process, characterized in that said process comprises:

a holding step of holding encrypted first information;

a storage step of storing second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions by associating said second information with said first information; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;
and

sending means for sending said first information held by said holding step and said second information stored by said storage step.

Claim 4. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus, characterized by comprising:

reception means for receiving encrypted first information and second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions sent from a given provider; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;

preparation means for preparing third information containing ~~the~~ pricing conditions for said first information and ~~the~~ a price that corresponds to said pricing conditions according to said second information received by said reception means; and

sending means for sending encrypted said first information and said second information received by said reception means as well as said third information prepared by said preparation means to appropriate equipment.

Claim 5. (currently amended) An information processing method, characterized by comprising:

a reception step of receiving encrypted first information and second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions sent from a given provider; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;

a preparation step of preparing third information containing ~~the~~ pricing conditions for said first information and ~~the~~ a price that corresponds to said pricing conditions according to said second information received by said reception step; and

a sending step of sending encrypted said first information and said second information received by said reception means as well as said third information prepared by said preparation step to appropriate equipment.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A providing medium that provides a computer-readable program for making an information processing apparatus execute a process, characterized in that said process comprises:

a reception step of receiving encrypted first information and second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions sent from a given provider; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;

a preparation step of preparing third information containing ~~the~~ pricing conditions for said first information and ~~the~~ a price that corresponds to said pricing conditions according to said second information received by said reception step; and

a sending step of sending encrypted said first information and said second information received by said reception means as well as said third information prepared by said preparation step to appropriate equipment.

Claim 7. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus, characterized by comprising:

storage means for storing appropriate reference information;

reception means for receiving encrypted first information, second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions, and third information containing ~~the~~ pricing conditions for said first information and ~~the~~ a price that corresponds to said pricing conditions, sent from a given provider; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said

first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;

usage condition selection means for selecting said usage conditions of said second information received by said reception means, corresponding to said reference information stored in said storage means;

pricing condition selection means for selecting said pricing conditions of said third information received by said reception means, corresponding to said reference information stored in said storage means;

usage means for decrypting and using encrypted said first information according to said usage details corresponding to said usage conditions selected by said usage condition selection means; and

execution means for charging for the usage by the usage means according to said price that corresponds to said pricing conditions selected by said pricing condition selection means.

Claim 8. (currently amended) An information processing method, characterized by comprising:

a storage step of storing appropriate reference information;

a reception step of receiving encrypted first information, second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions, and third information containing ~~the~~ pricing conditions for said first information and ~~the~~ a price that corresponds to said pricing conditions, sent from a given provider; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said

first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;

a usage condition selection step of selecting said usage conditions of said second information received by said reception step, corresponding to said reference information stored in said storage step;

a pricing condition selection step of selecting said pricing conditions of said third information received by said reception step, corresponding to said reference information stored in said storage step;

a usage step of decrypting and using encrypted said first information according to said usage details corresponding to said usage conditions selected by said usage condition selection step; and

an execution step of charging for the usage by the usage step according to said price that corresponds to said pricing conditions selected by said pricing condition selection ~~means~~step.

Claim 9. (currently amended) A providing medium that provides a computer-readable program for making an information processing apparatus execute a process, characterized in that said process comprises:

a storage step of storing appropriate reference information;

a reception step of receiving encrypted first information, second information containing ~~the~~ usage conditions of said first information and usage details for said usage conditions, and third information containing ~~the~~ pricing conditions for said first information and ~~the~~ a price that corresponds to said pricing conditions, sent from a given provider; said usage conditions including content use points for use in determining whether a user and an equipment can use said

first information; said usage details including an identification of said first information, a type of usage, and a control transfer status;

a usage condition selection step of selecting said usage conditions of said second information received by said reception step, corresponding to said reference information stored in said storage step;

a pricing condition selection step of selecting said pricing conditions of said third information received by said reception step, corresponding to said reference information stored in said storage step;

a usage step of decrypting and using encrypted said first information according to said usage details corresponding to said usage conditions selected by said usage condition selection step; and

an execution step of charging for the usage by the usage step according to said price that corresponds to said pricing conditions selected by said pricing condition selection ~~means~~step.